PIED PIPER COMICS™

$1.95
$2.95 Canada

THE NEW HUMANS™

#1

FROM THE EX-MUTANTS...
INTO THEIR OWN SERIES!

AN EXPLANATION:

I'm sure a lot of you are wondering why there's a PIED PIPER COMICS logo on this long delayed **NEW HUMANS™** #1. Yes, there's a reason for it, and a lot of it is a little hard to explain. But I'm just going to tell you what happened, not the official story, not any doctored version designed to make me or any one else look better.

Last spring, I was first approached by David Campiti about writing **EX-MUTANTS™**, which was then to be titled *Young Ex-Mutant Samurai Humans*. Despite some reservations about the dumb title and silly concept, I took the job.

At the time, David was working with Brian Marshall at Eternity Comics. They were financed by Scott Rosenberg, the owner of Sunrise Distribution. Perhaps David should have had more reservations. There was nothing really illegal or immoral about Rosenberg owning a comic book company, but with all the secrecy he demanded, there were times we could hardly help feeling there was something shady about it.

EX-MUTANTS #1 finally appeared in August, and around that time serious problems cropped up among Campiti, Marshall, and some creators. At that point, Rosenberg separated them, and set each up with his own companies.

The split-up resulted in the creation of AMAZING COMICS and WONDER COLOR COMICS, led by David. Brian Marshall was left with Eternity, and a new company called Imperial.

It was, at times, almost a competition with Eternity, a contest to see who could put out the most books and make the most money. I'm not going to judge who the winner was, but I will say that I never regretted my decision to leave Eternity.

For the next several months, I worked in the Campiti & Associates offices as an associate editor for Wonder and Amazing, as well as writing **EX-MUTANTS** and several other titles. At first, everything went very well.

But then, payments stopped coming on time, then finally at all. Money for office expenses didn't come either, and Scott Rockwell, our art director and my roommate, and I, each went several weeks without salary. Then, on several occasions, there was interference with our editorial decisions.

Finally, the situation became intolerable. Rumors surfaced concerning plans to dump our company and pirate our projects away.

So we're making as clean a break as possible, and we'll continue our efforts to see everyone he owes money to, including David Campiti, Ron Lim, Tim Dzon and me, and other creators and creditors as well, are paid.

As for me, I'm sort of out of work, because my associate editor position is gone, but I'll still be writing these books, as well as working on some color books I hope to see out this summer. It's been a great time, and I don't regret a minute of this.

David Lawrence

David Lawrence

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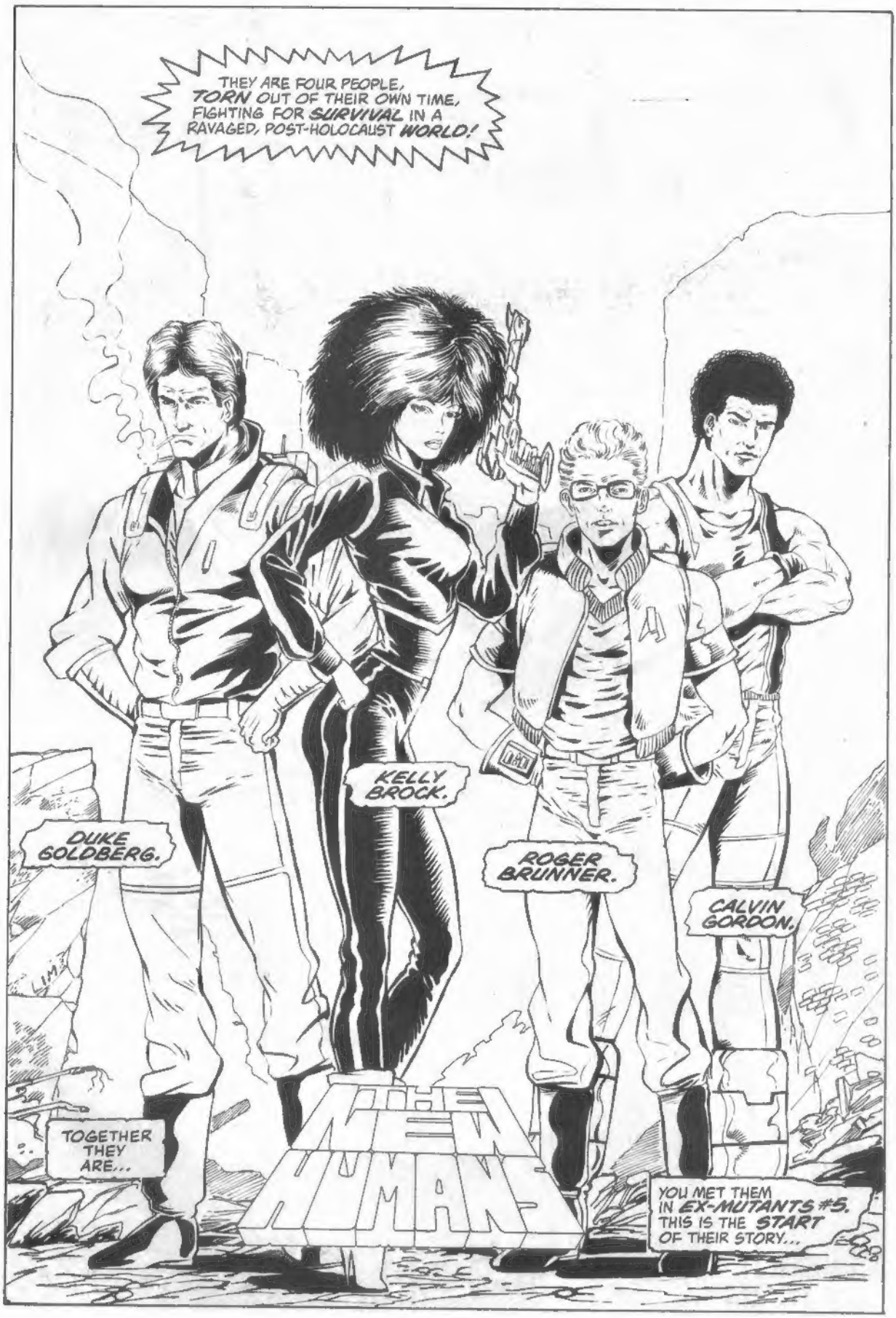

THEY ARE FOUR PEOPLE, TORN OUT OF THEIR OWN TIME, FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL IN A RAVAGED, POST-HOLOCAUST WORLD!
DUKE GOLDBERG.
KELLY BROCK.
ROGER BRUNNER.
CALVIN GORDON.
TOGETHER THEY ARE...
THE NEW HUMANS
YOU MET THEM IN EX-MUTANTS #5. THIS IS THE START OF THEIR STORY...

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS...

C. GORDON

SIX MONTHS ASLEEP, ROGER. I CAN STILL HARDLY BELIEVE IT!

R. BRUNNER

SIX MONTHS FOR THE WORLD, CALVIN. IF THIS WORKS RIGHT, FOR US IT'LL BARELY BE AN AFTERNOON NAP!

D. GOLDBURG

IF IT WORKS! GLAD TA HEAR YA SOUND SO CONVINCED!

K. BROCK

DUKE, IF THERE WERE ANY CHANCE OF ALL OF THIS NOT WORKING...

--DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT ROGER AND I WOULD HAVE INSISTED ON JOINING YOU AND CAL AS TEST SUBJECTS?

KLANK!

AND NEED I REMIND YOU THAT WITHOUT THIS HIBERNATION SYSTEM, YOUR PRECIOUS FLIGHT TO JUPITER WOULD BE ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE?

SO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE, ME...

I STILL...

AIN'T...

SURRR...

AND SO THEY SLEPT...

--BROCK, BRUNNER, GOLDBERG, AND GORDON--

K. BROCK

--NEVER KNOWING LESS THAN HALFWAY INTO THEIR EXPERIMENT...

--SOMETHING ELSE WENT WRONG.

NOT QUITE THE FUTURE MANKIND EXPECTED, BUT SOMEHOW, AMID THE ASHES AND RUINS--
--SOMETHING SURVIVED.
GOSH, WALLY, DO YA REALLY THINK WE OUGHTTA GO IN THERE?

I ALREADY TOLDJA-- THERE'S LOTSA NEAT STUFF IN THERE! BESIDES--
--YOU'RE NOT GONNA TURN CHICKEN, ARE YOU?

NO...I'M NO CHICKEN!

WELL, THEN--LET'S GO!

GULP

GEE, YOU WERE RIGHT, WALLY, THIS STUFF IS REALLY N--

--EAT...

AFTER THE FIRE...

THIS WAS JOHNSON SPACE CENTER.

THIS WAS THE NERVE CENTER FOR PERHAPS MANKIND'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS.

HERE, HE REACHED FOR THE STARS.

HERE, AS EVERYWHERE ELSE, HE FELL SHORT.

THE ORIGIN OF
THE NEW HUMANS,
BROUGHT TO YOU BY

DAVID LAWRENCE
WRITER

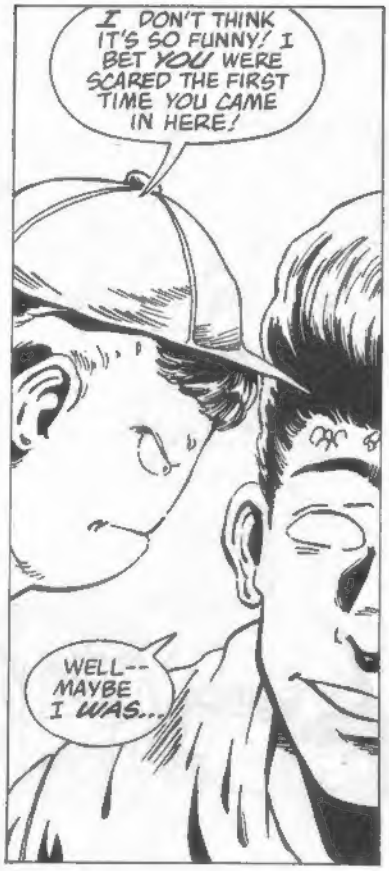
RON LIM
PENCILLER

LIM, DZON, BRENGETTSY, TSUDA
INKERS

TOM ADDIS
LETTERER

DAVID CAMPITI
MISSION CONTROL

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN YOUR FACE--HA-HA
YOU WERE--HA-HA YOU WERE--HA-HA
HA HA HA HA HA


I DON'T THINK IT'S SO FUNNY! I BET YOU WERE SCARED THE FIRST TIME YOU CAME IN HERE!
WELL--MAYBE I WAS...

BUT LOOK AT THIS STUFF!
EARTH TO MARS! EARTH TO MARS!

I THINK YOU'RE ALREADY ON MARS, WALLY.
CHICKEN!
AM NOT!

WELL, COME ON, THEN! DON'T BE SUCH A SISSY!
THERE'S NOTHING TA WORRY ABOUT! AFTER ALL--

--NOBODY LIVES HERE!

"NOBODY LIVES HERE." THE WORDS ECHO DOWN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT--
R. BRUNNER
D. MOLDBER
K. BROCK
--BUT DON'T REACH DOWN QUITE THIS FAR.
G'MORNIN', EVERYONE--
--DID YOU MISS ME?
I DON'T THINK THEY MISSED US, KELLY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE'S NO-BODY THERE!
WHERE IS EVERY-BODY?
AH...IT FIGURES. YOU TECHNICAL TYPES AIN'T GOT NO DISCIPLINE! NOW IN THE SERVICE--
BUT THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
NOW THERE WE'VE GOT--
SKRRTCH!
COME ON, YOU--
SKRRTCH!
DAMN!
BLAM
THEY COULD'VE CHANGED THE PROGRAM BUT--

YOU ALL RIGHT, DUKE?
I'LL LIVE, CAL.
HERE, TRY MINE.

ELECTRIC. CAME WITH A LIFETIME GUARANTEE.
THANKS, BRUNNER--

--I TAKE BACK HALF THE ROTTEN THINGS I EVER SAID ABOUT YA.
ONE NICOTINE FIEND TO ANOTHER, GOLDBERG.

CHOKE! THEY GOTTA BE SIX MONTHS OLD! THOSE ARE THE STALEST-
KAFF KAFF KAF
KAF
DUKE--

YEAH, CALVIN?
CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND? DOOR'S STUCK. I CAN'T GET IT TO BUDGE.

SURE THING. WE'LL HAVE IT OPEN IN--
UH,--GUYS-- I THINK YOU'D BETTER WAIT A MINUTE.

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS, BUT--
--I THINK WE'VE BEEN SLEEPING FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KELLY?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, ROGER. ACCORDING TO THIS--
-- THE COMPUTERS TOOK OVER AND REVIVED US AUTOMATICALLY WHEN OUR BATTERIES RAN DOWN.
BUT, KELLY, THAT WOULD TAKE--
OH, ABOUT--
THIRTY YEARS?!?
NO. IT CAN'T BE.
COME ON, CAL. LET'S GET THIS DOOR OPEN!
DUKE--DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THEY DIDN'T JUST FORGET US!
IT MIGHT NOT BE SAFE. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF--
--DISASTER...
KRAK!

YEP.
DEFINITELY A DISASTER.

LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE COMING TO GET US.
LUCKY FOR US HE DIDN'T MAKE IT.
IT COULD'VE BEEN WAR, THEN, OR PERHAPS-- NO, NEVER MIND.
DUKE, WE CAN'T LEAVE NOW. THERE COULD BE DANGEROUS FALLOUT. IT COULD BE--
TELL ME ONE THING--

DO YA HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TA BE ABLE TA TELL FROM DOWN HERE WHETHER IT'S SAFE UP ABOVE?
NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY EQUIPMENT THAT--
WELL, THEN, SINCE WE HAVE TO HEAD UP SOONER OR LATER..
BAM BAM!
--MY VOTES FOR SOONER!

HEY, WALLY! WE'D BETTER GO BACK! I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING!
COME ON! NOBODY'S BEEN IN HERE FOR YEARS! WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
GHOSTS?

GHOSTS? GOSH, NO, WALLY, I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS!
BUT IF THEY ARE GHOSTS--

--THEY SURE ARE AWFUL LOUD ONES!
BAM
BAM
BAM

TAKE-CHARGE TYPE, HUH?
THE COLONEL'S ALWAYS BELIEVED IT'S BEST TO STAY BUSY IN A CRISIS. KEEPS YOU FROM THINKING.
YES--
--I CAN SEE HOW THINKING'S NOT SOMETHING HE'D BE VERY GOOD AT!

SCUZE ME, COLONEL. YOU KNOW, THIS WAS A TOP-SECURITY AREA. THOSE DOORS ARE RE-INFORCED STEEL.
YOU COULD POUND ON THEM FOR DAYS AND NOT GET ANY-WHERE.

YA GOT A BETTER IDEA?
AS A MATTER OF FACT--I THINK I DO!

KELLY, IF YOU'D BE SO KIND AS TO ASSIST ME...
WHY, CERTAINLY, ROGER--

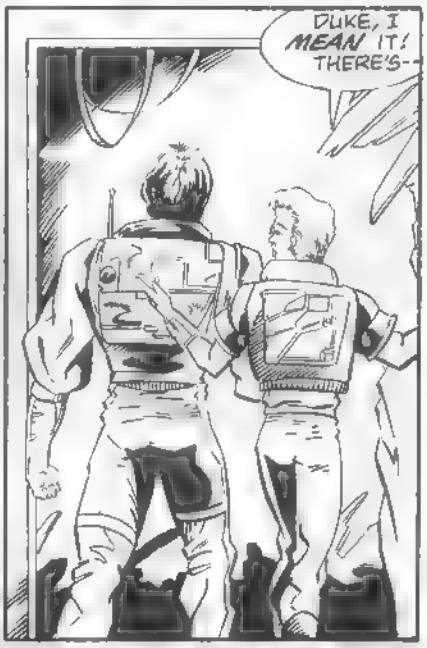
ANYTHING TO STOP HIS DAMNED POUNDING!
IBERNATION LAB

SHORTLY...
TAKE IT EASY, KELLY. NOT TOO MUCH POWER.
THESE CIRCUITS HAVEN'T BEEN USED IN THIRTY YEARS!
DON'T WORRY, ROGER. I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH POWER.
LIKE I SAID, THESE BATTERIES ARE ABOUT SHOT.
SHOULD BE PLENTY.
THERE! IT'S WORKING! THE DOORS ARE--
AAAAAAHHHHH!!!

MYGODIT'SHUGEIT'SHORRIBLEIT'S--
WHOA! SLOW DOWN! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

:GASP!:
IN THE... ELEVATOR SHAFT...IT'S...
:GASP!:

I RECKON I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK.
DUKE-- DON'T--


DUKE, I MEAN IT! THERE'S--

HMM... CAN'T SEE A THING.
LEND ME YOUR LIGHTER.

WELL, LOOK HERE, BRUNNER--

--HERE'S YOUR MONSTER!

AMAZING!
UNBELIEVABLE!
WHAT IS IT?
HEY, WATCH IT!

I WASN'T CALLING YOU NAMES.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF HIM, KELLY?
OBVIOUSLY AN UNFORTUNATE SURVIVOR, PROBABLY SOME ONE-OF-A-KIND MUTATION--
UH... EXCUSE ME--

--PLEASE DON'T HURT MY LITTLE BROTHER.

ONE OF A KIND, EH?

NOBODY'S GOING TO HURT YOU.
OF COURSE--

--WE'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS.

MEANWHILE:
WHERE ARE THOSE BOYS? I DIG AND DIG ALL DAY SEARCHING FOR A DECENT DINNER--

--THE LEAST THEY COULD DO IS SHOW UP!
LOOK, DEAR! HERE COMES EDDIE. I BET HE KNOWS WHERE THEY ARE!
OH, EDDIE!

EDDIE--HAVE YOU SEEN WALLY AND HIS BROTHER?
WHY-- UH...
NO, MRS. WEAVER, I--
EDDIE--

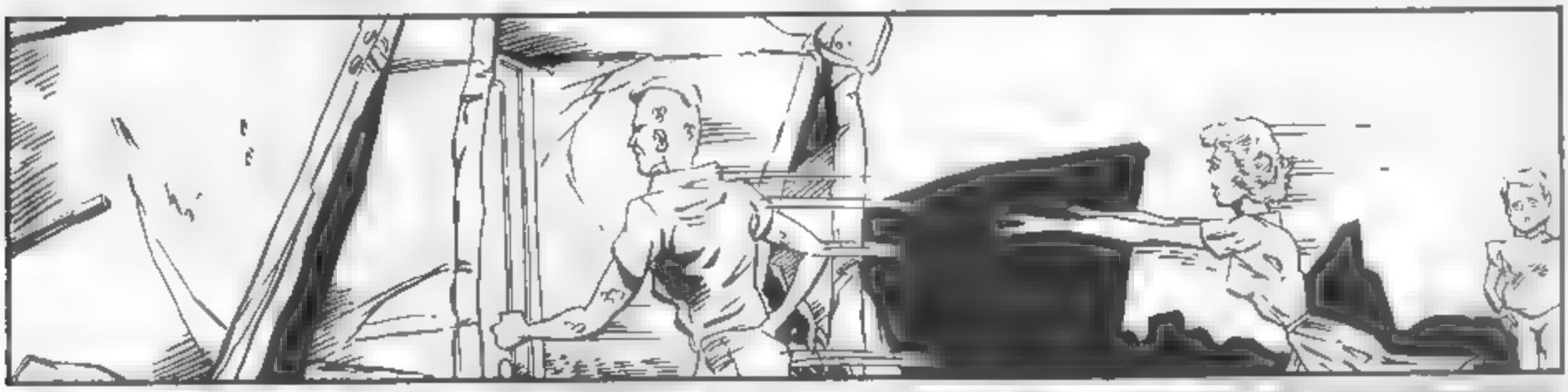
YOU'RE LYING TO ME, AREN'T YOU?
WHERE ARE THE BOYS?

GOSH, I DON'T WANNA GET THEM IN TROUBLE OR ANYTHING, BUT--
GEE, DO I HAVETA?

EDDIE...

WELL, WALLY TOLD ME HE WAS GOIN' TO THAT SPACE PLACE...
NO!!!

NOT THERE!! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO.



KLAK

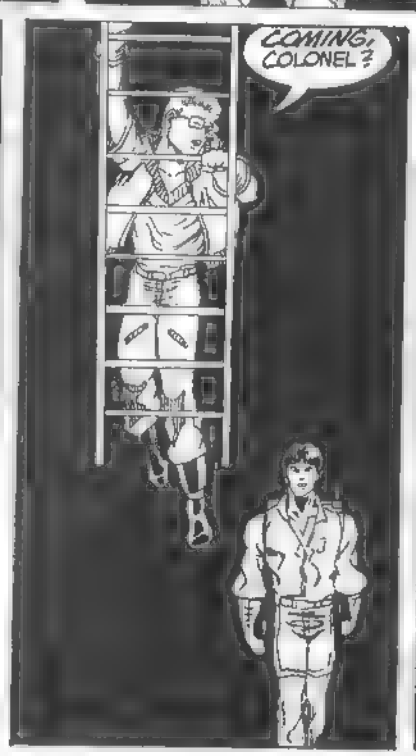
NO, WARD! NOT THAT!
NOT THAT!

-- BUT THAT WAS ALL BEFORE WE WERE EVEN BORN.
UGH! WHAT AN AWFUL STORY.
THEN YOU GUESSED RIGHT, KELLY. THEY REALLY WENT AND DID IT.
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

FER NOW, I FIGURE WE GET BACK TO GETTING OUTTA HERE!
BRUNNER, YA WANNA CALL THAT ELEVATOR?
ELEVATOR?

OH, YOU MISUNDER-STOOD. I WAS JUST GETTING THE DOOR OPEN.

NO WAY ON EARTH IS THIS ELEVATOR GOING TO RUN.
WE HAVE TO CLIMB UP!


COMING, COLONEL?

GRUMBLE

NOT SHORTLY ENOUGH...
GOOD THING I DIDN'T WEAR MY NEW SUIT...
WHEW!! I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT AGAIN.
SO THIS IS TEXAS...

--NICE PLACE, TEXAS!
UGH. WHAT A MESS.

ALAS, POOR YORRICK--
HEY!!

CUT THAT OUT!!
WHAT THE HELL--

BRUNNER-- YA DAMN MORON--
--I MIGHTA KNOWN 'IM!!
OH, GOD--

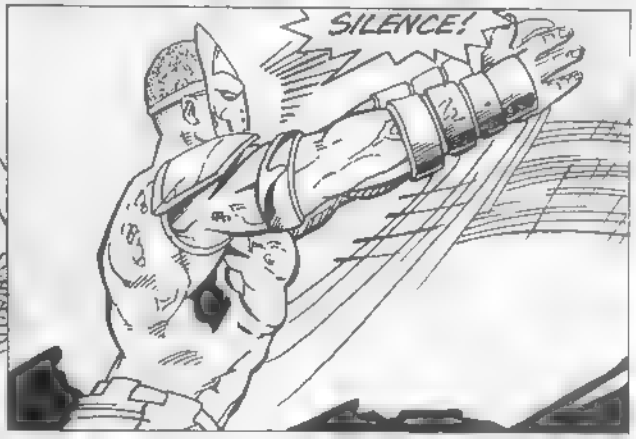
DUKE, I WASN'T THINKING. I JUST--

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT? IT WASN'T FUNNY!
NO, IT WASN'T. BUT I CAN'T HELP BEING RE-MINDED--

--YOU'RE ALWAYS THE FIRST TO BERATE HIM FOR NOT THINKING, AND YOU SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED--
--FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE, IN A VERY REAL SENSE--
"THIS WAS HIS HOME."
HOME, WARD!
I JUST WANT MY BOYS HOME!
WOULD YOU BE QUIET?!
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT THE BOYS! I DON'T CARE WHAT THE LAW SAYS!
BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL FIND OUT HERE?
AND WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM OUT OF HERE--
--BEFORE ANY OF US ARE SEEN.

TOO LATE, WEAVER.
I SEE EVERY-THING.

PLEASE DON'T--


SILENCE!

YOU KNOW THE LAW.
WHUMP
WHUMP

WE WILL WAIT.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL--WE COULD GO WITH THE BOYS. MIGHT BE WORTH EXPLORING VIL-LAGE LIFE HERE.
WELL--

--THAT REALLY ISN'T A GOOD IDEA. WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PLAY HERE, AND DAD WOULD GET AWFUL SORE IF--
AH, I GOT A BETTER IDEA ANYWAY. YOU KIDS RUN ALONG.

GEE, THANKS, MISTER. SO LONG.
WAIT!

WE'LL LET IT GO THIS TIME, BUT REMEMBER--
--ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOUR PARENTS. RULES ARE THERE FOR A REASON.

KELLY--DID ANYONE EVER TELL YOU WATCHED TOO MUCH TV WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?
THAT WAS RIGHT OUT OF FATHER KNOWS BEST!
CLOSE--
--BUT THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT THEY REMINDED ME OF! OH, WELL--

--SO TELL US, DUKE, WHAT'S THIS GREAT IDEA OF YOURS?
I CAN DO YA ONE BETTER.
I THINK I'M JUST GONNA SHOW YA!

SURE WAS SPOOKY. I'M GLAD TO GET--

--OUTTA THERE!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

YOU KNOW THE LAW.
YOU KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING.

PLEASE! YOU CAN'T!
MOM! DAD! YOU CAN'T LET THEM!

I'M SORRY, BOYS.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
TIMALOK!
TIMALOK!

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING.
JUST YER 'MAGINATION, BRUNNER. NEXT THING YA KNOW, YA'LL BE SEEIN' GHOSTS!
DAMN DOOR.

KELLY--YA WOULDN'T HAVE A HAIRPIN OR SOMETHIN', WOULDJA?
HAIRPIN? IN THIS DAY AND AGE?
MY GOD, DUKE--I USE MOUSSE!
OOMPH! GUESS I'LL HAVETA DO THIS THE HARD WAY!
CAL, GIMME A HAND.
OOOFF!!
UHNN!!
HMM...
DID YOU EVER CONSIDER PULLING INSTEAD OF PUSHING?

JUST WAIT 'TILL YA SEE THIS--
--IF IT'S STILL THERE, ANYWAY.
CONFIDENCE. I LIKE THAT IN A MAN.
I WAS HOPIN' SHE'D BE OKAY, SHE WAS STORED AS FAR UNDERGROUND AS WE WERE.
WHAT DA YA THINK?
THIS IS THE CHALLENGER II. IT WAS THE PROTOTYPE FER A FLEET OF SPACE PLANES DESIGNED TO REPLACE THE SHUTTLE.
NUCLEAR-POWERED, VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING CAPABILITY, AND DESIGNED ALMOST MAINTENANCE-FREE.
IT'S EVEN GOT INDIVIDUAL COMPARTMENTS FER CREW QUARTERS. JUST WHAT WE NEED TA TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND AND SEE WHAT KIND OF A MESS WE'VE GOTTEN OURSELVES IN.
'COURSE, AFTER THIRTY YEARS, I'M SURE IT'S GOT SOME KINKS IN IT--

--BUT NOTHIN' OUR YOUNG TECHNICAL WIZARD CAN'T HANDLE--
--IF HE'S HALF AS GOOD AS HE THINKS HE IS!
LEMME AT IT!

SINCE I KNOW THE SPECS ON THIS THING, I'LL STAY WITH HIM.
CAL, YOU AND KELLY GO LOOK FOR SUPPLIES. THERE SHOULD BE SOME FREEZE-DRIED FOOD IN STORAGE.
LOOK AROUND FER EQUIPMENT WE MIGHT USE, TOO.

GUESS WE'LL HIT STORAGE FIRST. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO CHECK AFTER THAT?
HOW ABOUT THE PX?

THEY'VE JUST GOTTA HAVE AT LEAST ONE FIFTH OF TEQUILA!
SO WHERE DO WE START?

THEN COME SEVERAL HARD DAYS OF PREPARATIONS--
EMER RATIONS
NASA

BE SURE AND CHECK OUT THE NEW HUMANS' FIRST ADVENTURE IN THE PAGES OF EX-MUTANTS #5! AND JOIN US IN TWO MONTHS, WHEN THE NEW HUMANS LEARN:

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND!

THE NEW HUMANS

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

NEW HUMAIL

2405 WARWOOD AVENUE, WHEELING, WV 26003

I READ MY BILLS TODAY, OH BOY ...
or
ENTER: THE SPIN-OFF!

I know what you're thinking.

From the first ad, from the moment you picked up **EX-MUTANTS #5** and this first issue of **THE NEW HUMANS,** you've been thinking something like "another rip-off spin-off." Just what you need, right? Company after company produces spin-off after spin-off, none ever quite as good as the book that came before.

You know as well as I do: it's easier to produce a comic book, or a movie, or a TV series by relying on a pre-sold concept. Less thought is necessary from all involved, and it's easier to sell to your audience, when you use already-familiar characters and concepts.

And do you know what? You're right.

The good folks think this book will sell. Not as well as **EX-MUTANTS,** but **EX-MUTANTS** has been successful enough to worth give **THE NEW HUMANS** series a try.

But when the assignment first came through, I never even thought of turning it down. How many of you would say "no" to an extra few thousand dollars a year? Certainly, we all know the decision to publish this book was a business decision. But that doesn't mean **THE NEW HUMANS** won't be good.

The "Ex-Mutants Universe," as it's already been referred to, is a big one. A whole world is out there to explore, a world very different from what you and I live in. With that world as a backdrop, I have lots of stories to tell, more than I could ever hope to get around to in **EX-MUTANTS.**

But a same-world setting doesn't mean the books *have* to be the same. There's room for a Batman and a Superman, a Swamp Thing and a 'Mazing Man in one DC universe after all, and certainly each of those titles has its own identity very distinct from the others.

So when I started work on **THE NEW HUMANS,** I set out to do two things:

First, as with any writer, I wanted it to be good. For me, that means entertaining; I want people to have fun when they read my writing. As a child writing short stories to show my friends and

family: in high school when I edited the *Peabody Civitan;* and honestly even in my college term papers, that was always my first concern.

Anything else, any extra substance or accomplishment, is a bonus.

Not that I don't try to do more than entertain, and I'm arrogant enough to think I succeed in achieving my loftier goals — *sometimes.* But nobody's going to learn anything from my writing if it's not entertaining enough to persuade them to read it.

My second major goal was to make **THE NEW HUMANS** as different from **EX-MUTANTS** as possible. This required a little thought, and a *lot* of work. The

easiest thing in the world would have been for Doc to create a new batch of humans, set them loose, and cross over between the books as often as possible. Some writers, and in fact some companies, have ridden that path to fame and fortune.

Not what I wanted to do, though. I decided, rather than a batch of newly-created humans to make The New Humans pre-holocaust *survivors.* Given the opportunity, I gave our diehard fans their first look in several of the new pages of **EX-MUTANTS: THE SPECIAL EDITION #1** (still on sale). But how they survive is covered in the story you either just read or are about to, so I won't go into that. The important thing is it gave the characters a different perspective from the **EX-MUTANTS.**

The Ex-Mutants are products of this post-holocaust world, trying to make it better. The New Humans are from our world, our

time. Trapped in this confusing new world, they are explorers trying to unravel the mysteries that confront them, trying to make sense out of a world they've never known.

When it came clear to me that exploration was one of the major themes of this series, other ideas to differentiate them occurred naturally. The Ex-Mutants operate in a fairly confined area. They travel, but going from coast to coast would just be more time and trouble than it's worth for them. The New Humans, then, needed a way to get from place to place fairly easily. Thus, their aircraft, which I'll admit is merely comic book pseudo-science —

but what the hell, it all made sense to me. And it made it possible to give the book a more global scale.

And that's exactly what The New Humans will be doing in the early issues of this title: exploring the world. What will they find, and what happens next? I don't know; I haven't made it up yet.

But once I decided how to establish an individual identity for **THE NEW HUMANS,** my enthusiasm increased considerably.

That doesn't mean these two books will read as though they're written by two different writers. I have my own style, and both books will certainly be written in my style. I paid good money for it, it's the only one I've got, and by God I'm going to use it!

My interests will be reflected in this book, too. Those of you who've been with me throughout my brief career pretty much know what interests me: good movies, bad TV, rock-and-roll, and the 60's. It all tends to crop up when I'm not looking, and I'm sure it will happen here, too.

Understood, I'm not swearing that the Ex-Mutants will never meet The New Humans. I really have no immediate plans for it, but I suppose it will happen sooner or later when the storyline or my mood calls for it.

But I do promise that this book will not become home to an endless series of cross-overs and that it won't be an easy way to clip you out of an extra buck-ninety five every other month.

Do I always keep my promises?

No — but I try.

— David Lawrence